

Legal Notice

Comprehensive Five-Year Bond Review for Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. (Hard Rock Mining Operating Permit No. 00179)

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is conducting a comprehensive bond review for Operating Permit No. 00179 issued to Shumaker Trucking & Excavating Contractors, Inc. (Shumaker). Shumaker has four sites approved under Operating Permit No. 00179. The sites and locations are: the Chinook Quarry in Section 27 of Township 31N, Range 19E, located in Blaine County; the Green Coulee Quarry in Section 32 of Township 31N, Range 2E, located in Toole County; the Fort Shaw Quarry in Section 35 of Township 20N, Range 2W and the Savoy Quarry in Sections 22 and 23 of Township 20N, Range 2W, both located in Cascade County.

DEQ has determined that the current bonding level does not represent the present costs of compliance with the Metal Mine Reclamation Act, administrative rules adopted thereunder, and the operating permit. DEQ is proposing a bond increase of \$118,332 (from \$244,891 to \$363,223). The bond increase is largely due to changes in fuel price and equipment rates, inflation, and updated indirect costs - mobilization, contingency, and administration.

The procedure for adjusting bonds as a result of a comprehensive bond review is set forth in Section 82-4-338(3), MCA. The company and the public will have until June 6, 2023, to comment on the proposed bond increase. DEQ will issue a final bond determination after the comment period has expired. The company, or any person with an interest that may be adversely affected by DEQ's final bond determination, may obtain a contested case hearing before the Board of Environmental Review. A written request for a hearing must be filed with DEQ within 30 days of the issuance of the final bond determination, stating the reason for the request.

Requests for copies of the bond calculation associated with the comprehensive bond review, and any related questions should be directed to Eric Dahlgren, Hard Rock Mining Section Supervisor, Mining Bureau, Department of Environmental Quality, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, by telephone at (406) 444-5245 or by e-mail at DEQHardRock@mt.gov.